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<p>(54) Title: HARD CANDY CONTAINING XYLITOL AND A PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The invention relates to hard candy, the sweetener of which consists of 30 to 70 % by weight of xylitol and 70 to 30 % by weight of sorbitol, maltitol, isomalt, lactitol, or a mixture thereof, and which can contain, in addition to the sweetener, up to 3 % by weight, preferably no more than 1 % by weight, of water, and up to 3 % of conventional processing agents and additives such as vegetable fat, emulsifiers, colourings and aromatic substances, and intensive sweeteners. A further object of the invention is a process for manufacturing said hard candy, wherein about 35 to 80 % by weight of the total amount of the sweetener is melted at a temperature of 120 to 175 °C, whereafter it is cooled to 95 to 135 °C, at which temperature the remainder of the sweetener is added thereto while mixing as a crystalline or powdered solid, optional processing agents and additives are added to the mass when it is in a molten state, and the mass is formed into candies by known forming techniques or modifications thereof.</p>			

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Hard candy containing xylitol and a process for the manufacture thereof

The invention relates to hard candy containing
5 as a sweetener xylitol in combination with another tooth-friendly sugar alcohol or a mixture thereof. The invention relates further to a process for manufacturing hard candy of this kind.

Hard candy refers conventionally to confectionery products containing sugar, glucose syrup and small amounts of aromatic substances and colourings, and having a water content usually below 3%. Hard candy can be either amorphous (clear, glass-like), or partly or totally crystalline (e.g. the so-called 10 pulled hard candy) in structure. When xylitol, other polyols or hydrogenated glucose syrups are used instead of sugar and glucose syrup, the term hard candy refers to confectionery products having a structure similar to the conventional ones.

Hard amorphous candy has been conventionally manufactured by concentrating solutions of sucrose and glucose syrup to a small water content and by adding simultaneously aromatic substances and other additives. Candy of this kind is detrimental to the teeth as is well known; neither is it suitable for diabetics. Therefore continuous attempts have been made to develop candy compositions which would be suitable for the manufacture of hard candy and in which sucrose and glucose syrup would be replaced by 15 other sweeteners which do not have the drawbacks stated above.

The cariostatic properties and pleasant taste of xylitol make it a sweetener extremely suitable for replacing sucrose; also other known tooth-friendly sugar alcohols are suited to be used for this 20 25 30 35

purpose. Sorbitol, maltitol, isomalt and lactitol are such tooth-friendly sugar alcohols.

The tooth-friendly properties of xylitol are at their best when the amount of xylitol is at least 50% of the sweeteners used, and also the other sweeteners are selected from the tooth-friendly sugar alcohols stated above. The sensory impression properties of the final product are the most advantageous when the amount of xylitol is 50 to 70%. However, hard amorphous candies like those made of sucrose and glucose syrups cannot be made of xylitol as such or if used in combination with other known tooth-friendly sugar alcohols by conventional techniques for manufacturing hard candy with conventional mixture ratios.

Finnish Patent No. 61,265 discloses a process for manufacturing hard candy containing xylitol, the sweetener being xylitol, of which no more than 10% can be replaced by sorbitol or mannitol. In addition, the candy manufactured by said process cannot contain more than about 3% of aromatic substances and other additives. In this process, powdered xylitol is added to molten xylitol at a temperature not higher than approximately the melting point of xylitol (96°C). The candy mass thus obtained is suitable to be prepared in moulds, wherein the mass hardens in about one minute at room temperature. Thus, the mass is not suitable for manufacturing candies by processes requiring that the mass remains in a mouldable, plastic state for a longer time.

Finnish Patent No. 62,207 discloses a process for manufacturing candy wherein a mixture of the components (a) and (b) is used as the sweetener, the component (a) being sorbitol or xylitol or a mixture thereof, and the component (b) being dextrose or

fructose or a mixture thereof, the sweetening composition containing at least about 75% by weight of the component (a). For sorbitol-dextrose compositions, a preferred mixture ratio of 75% of sorbitol and 25% of dextrose is disclosed, and if xylitol is used to substitute for or in addition to sorbitol, the component (a) is suggested to be used preferably in an amount of even about 90% by weight of the composition. A sweetening composition of this kind is suggested to be used in an amount of 40 to 100% by weight of the candy, and the composition is said to be suitable for use also in the manufacture of boiled hard candy, in which case the candy must be allowed to harden for several hours due to the sorbitol contained therein. Said reference does not disclose more detailed facts concerning the preparation or the physical characteristics of the candy obtained. In the examples given, xylitol is mentioned only as a component of lozenged candy. The candy manufactured according to said reference always contains also components detrimental to the teeth (dextrose, fructose).

Xylitol containing products manufactured with other conventional hard candy apparatus are also known; their xylitol content is, however, only less than 20%, and some known tooth-friendly sugar alcohol has been used simultaneously. Owing to its physico-chemical nature, xylitol does not produce sufficiently viscous non-crystalline hard candy when the xylitol content is above 20% and the remainder of the product consists of the above-stated known tooth-friendly sugar alcohols. For this reason, the structure characteristic of hard candy has to be provided by other means.

U.S. Patent No. 4,292,337, for example, discloses a confectionery product containing 20 to 35% by weight of xylitol, 20 to 50% by weight of a thickener (e.g. pectin, agar, carboxymethylcellulose, 5 gelatine etc.), 0.5 to 3% by weight of water, 0.1 to 5% by weight of additives (aromatic substances, flavourings, dyes etc.), the remainder being sorbitol. However, on account of the thickeners used, the product has a structure similar to a gum arabic pastille.

10 The object of this invention is to provide hard candy which contains xylitol in a sufficient amount in view of tooth-friendliness and which is also suitable to be used by diabetics and which, in addition, is well preservable, non-hygroscopic, has a smooth 15 structure, and dissolves slowly in the mouth.

This object is achieved with the hard candy according to the invention containing xylitol and another tooth-friendly sugar alcohol, the sweetener of which comprises 30 to 70% by weight of xylitol and 20 to 30% by weight of sorbitol, maltitol, isomalt, lactitol or a mixture thereof, and which can contain, in addition to the sweetener, up to 3% by weight, preferably no more than 1% by weight, of water, and up to 3% by weight of conventional processing agents 25 and additives such as vegetable fat, emulsifiers, colourings and aromatic substances, and intensive sweeteners, said candy being substantially crystallized throughout.

The sweetener of the hard candy according to 30 the invention contains preferably 50 to 60% of xylitol. This xylitol content is the most preferred in view of both tooth-friendliness and the technique for manufacturing the candy.

The water optionally contained in the hard 35 candy according to the invention is derived from

crystal water, which may be present in the raw materials (e.g. lactitol, maltitol, isomalt). Dry raw materials are used in the manufacture of the candy.

A further object of the invention is to provide
5 a process for manufacturing said hard candy, wherein
the candy mass obtained as an intermediate product
has a composition which is formable into hard candies
by known or modified manufacturing techniques. The
formable mass should be sufficiently viscous and non-
sticky. When the xylitol content is 30 to 70% by
10 weight as stated above, preferably 50 to 60% by
weight, amorphous hard candy cannot be obtained, but
in order to achieve the hard structure of the final
product, the composition must be almost completely
15 crystallized. It was found that in order to obtain a
formable candy mass, it is essential to have a con-
trolled crystallization technique by virtue of which
the final confectionery product obtains its extremely
small-crystal, hard, well preservable, non-trans-
20 parent structure and which involves a sufficiently
long lasting plastic, formable intermediate state of
the mass.

Controlled crystallization of the mass can be
effected by mixing the molten subcooled sweetening
25 composition long enough to achieve a number of crys-
tals and structure suitable for subsequent process-
ing. However, it has been found more preferable in
view of the controllability of the crystallization to
crystallize the mass by means of seed crystals,
30 whereby part of the sweetener is added as a crystal-
line or powdered substance to the remainder of the
sweetener, which is in a molten state.

Thus, the invention further provides a process
for manufacturing the hard candy containing xylitol
35 and another sugar alcohol as defined above, which

process is characterized in that about 35 to 80% by weight of the total amount of the sweetener is melted at a temperature of 120 to 175°C, whereafter it is cooled to a temperature of 95 to 135°C, at which tem-

5 perature the remainder of the sweetener is added thereto while mixing as a crystalline or powdered solid, optional processing agents and additives are added to the mass when it is in a molten state, and the mass is formed into candies by forming techniques
10 known per se or modifications thereof, whereby all raw materials are substantially dry.

As stated above, controlled crystallization of the components is essential in the preparation of the candy mass. In the control of the crystallization
15 technique the basic parameters are: composition of the mass, mixing methods, mixing time, ratio of the solid phase to the liquid phase, particle size of the solid phase, cooling rate, and the mixing during cooling. These parameters are finally regulated
20 depending on the particular process and apparatus in such a manner that the desired result is achieved with respect to the requirements set for the final product to be manufactured and to the manufacturing technique.

25 Xylitol and/or the other sugar alcohols stated above or a mixture thereof can be used as the molten or liquid component. Accordingly, any of the components of the sweetener or a mixture thereof can be used as the solid component, or seed crystals, of the
30 process. The selection of the temperatures used in the process will depend on the melting points of the sugar alcohols used as the liquid and solid phases.

The particle size of the polyol (xylitol or another tooth-friendly sugar alcohol) added as a

solid can vary over a wide range, e.g. about 30 to 150 µm.

According to the invention, pure sugar alcohols can be used separately or in combination as raw

5 materials of the sweetener. Commercial dried or crystallized sugar alcohol products obtained by hydrogenation of sugars or syrups can also be used. Such a product is e.g. isomalt sold under the trade name Palatinit (a 1:1 mixture of α -D-glucopyranosyl(1->6)-mannitol and α -D-glucopyranosyl(1->6)sorbitol), manufactured by Palatinit GmbH, and maltitol sold under the trade name Malbit^R (crystalline), manufactured by Melida, and Maltisorb^R (crystalline), manufactured by Roquette Freres.

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15 The processing agents and additives possibly contained in the hard candy according to the invention are e.g. coconut fat or another vegetable fat, which prevents the adhesion of the mass during the manufacture, monoglycerides of fatty acids, e.g. GMS

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(glycerine monostearate), which prevent the adhesion and improve the emulsification of the fat into the candy mass, wherefore they increase the whiteness of the mass, and the aromatic substances and colourings used as in corresponding products in the conventional

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confectionery industry avoiding, however, acids detrimental to the teeth. Known intensive sweeteners such as aspartame or acesulfame K can be used for the regulation of sweetness.

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The crystallization of the candy mass in a manner best suited for a particular manufacturing technique is effected by regulating the process parameters mentioned above. Thus, the process according to the invention comprises as preferred embodiments three process types wherein the crystallization techniques differ slightly from each other. These pro-

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cesses are hereafter called a moulding technique, bicomponent crystallization and monocomponent crystallization, and in greater detail they are as follows:

5 A. Moulding technique

This technique produces a candy mass which is formable into hard candies by moulding in hard or starch moulds. Sorbitol, lactitol, isomalt, maltitol or a mixture thereof is used in combination with xylitol in the sweetener, the mixture ratio being:

xylitol 40 to 65%

other sugar alcohols 60 to 35%.

The mass to be moulded is prepared by melting about 60 to 80% of the sugar alcohols used at 120 to 160°C; the main part of the mass to be melted is xylitol. The melting temperature depends on the melting point of the sugar alcohol used in combination with xylitol. The mass is cooled to 100 to 115°C, and the remainder, 20 to 40%, of the sugar alcohols of the sweetener is added thereto as crystalline or powdered preferably to a particle size of less than 50 µm. The moulding temperature of the mass is 60 to 80°C. The mould retention time varies from 1 to 24 hours, whereafter the product is ready to be packed.

25 In the moulding technique, the viscosity and other structural properties of the mass are regulated by the ratio of the molten component of the different sugar alcohols to the solid component thereof to correspond to the moulding technique used.

30 In addition, the mixing method and mixing time have an effect on the rheology of the mass.

35 B. Bicomponent crystallization

The basic composition is xylitol/sorbitol. Instead of sorbitol, lactitol can be used. The xylitol/sorbitol ratio is 40 to 65% / 35 to 60%. Of

the sugar alcohols of the basic composition, 45 to 60% are in a molten phase and the remaining 40 to 55% form the solid component (seed crystals), wherein the proportion of xylitol is 20 to 35% and the proportion of sorbitol is 5 to 20%. The crystalline raw materials are powdered to a particle size of 40 to 60 µm.

The mass is prepared by melting the xylitol and sorbitol of the liquid component (45 to 60%) at 120 to 130°C. At this point, colourings, aromatic substances and vegetable fat, which diminishes the stickiness and improves the appearance, and GMS (emulsifier) are added. The mass is cooled to 95 to 105°C, at which temperature the xylitol/sorbitol seed crystal mixture is added, a total of 40 to 55% of the sweetener. The mixing is effected with an efficient planetary or helical mixer; the mixing time is 1 to 3 minutes.

The temperature of the mass thus obtained is 55 to 60°C. The mass is cooled quickly on a cold table to 20 to 30°C, at which temperature the mass is kneaded to suitably regulate the crystallization; the kneading time required will depend on the composition of the mass and the apparatus used. The forming techniques used with this type of mass are e.g. the conventional candy roller technique and rolling to a thin plate of which suitable bits are formed, for example by the chewing gum technique or the lozenge technique using a plastic mass.

The hard candy thus formed can be wrapped after 3 to 24 hours. The final hardness is achieved after 1 to 3 days. When lactitol is used instead of sorbitol, the mass is slightly harder and shorter (i.e. less stretchy) in the plastic stage.

C. Monocomponent crystallization

The basic composition used in this embodiment contains 30 to 65% of xylitol and either maltitol or isomalt as the other sugar alcohol.

Maltitol or isomalt, the proportion of which is
5 35 to 70% of the sweetener, is melted at 165 to 175°C and cooled to 120 to 135°C, at which temperature powdered xylitol is mixed into the mass. The mixing is effected with an efficient mixer, e.g. a helical mixer. The particle size of xylitol is 30 to 150 µm,
10 preferably 40 to 60 µm on the average. After the mixing, the mass is cooled on a cold table to 25 to 35°C. Provisional storage of the mixed mass is possible for 1 to 2 hours at +55 to +75°C prior to the forming with candy rollers or toffee manufacturing apparatus and according the forming principles of
15 the manufacturing technique A.

All the embodiments of the process described above produce a final product that is better preservable and more tooth-friendly than the conventional
20 amorphous sucrose/glucose syrup candy. A final product with the best structure has been achieved with bicomponent crystallization using a xylitol/sorbitol composition.

The crystallized xylitol hard candy according
25 to the invention is extremely well preservable non-hygroscopic candy. No changes have been found in a product stored without a wrapping under normal conditions at room temperature (20 to 22°C) in a relative humidity of 20 to 55% during 1 year.

30 The invention is illustrated in greater detail by the following examples which are not intended to restrict the scope of the invention.

Example 1

(Technique A, moulding technique)

35 The composition of the mass is as follows:

Crystalline xylitol	65.0%
Maltitol (purity ≥ 98%)	34.9%
Peppermint flavour	0.1%

5 Xylitol is melted at 125°C, peppermint essence is added, and the mass is cooled to 100°C. Crystalline maltitol (300 µm) is added, and the mass is mixed for 1 minute.

10 The mass, the temperature of which is 75°C, is moulded in corn starch containing 6% of water, wherein the main part of the mass is crystallized within 2 hours. The product achieves its final hardness in 1 day.

Example 2

(Technique A, moulding technique)

15 The composition of the mass is as follows:

Crystalline xylitol	60.0%
Powdered sorbitol, 60 µm	20.0%
Maltitol (purity ≥ 98%) 300 µm	19.9%
Peppermint flavour	0.1%

20 Xylitol is melted at 125°C, peppermint flavour is added thereto while mixing, and the mass is cooled to 103°C, at which temperature powdered sorbitol and maltitol are mixed into the mass.

25 The mass is moulded at a temperature of 80°C in a corn starch mould as in Example 1. The main part of the mass is crystallized within 3 hours; the final hardening takes about 3 days.

Example 3

(Technique B, bicomponent crystallization)

30 The composition of the mass is as follows:

Crystalline xylitol	11.8%
Crystalline sorbitol	41.4%
Powdered xylitol, 40 µm	38.5%
Powdered sorbitol, 60 µm	6.9%
35 Coconut fat 30/32	1.0%

GMS	0.3%
Peppermint flavour	0.1%

Crystalline xylitol and crystalline sorbitol are melted at 120°C and cooled to 100°C, at which 5 temperature peppermint flavour, GMS and coconut fat are added. Powdered xylitol and sorbitol are added, and the mass is mixed for 1 minute. After the mixing, the temperature is 65°C. The mass is cooled to 20°C on a cold table. The amount of the mass is 10 to 20 10 kg. The cooled mass is formed with a conventional hard candy roller.

A corresponding technique is suitable for a composition wherein lactitol is used instead of sorbitol. The melting is thereby effected at 130°C, and 15 lactitol of 150 to 300 µm, preferably < 60 µm, is used in the crystallization.

Example 4

(Technique C, monocomponent crystallization)

The composition of the mass is as follows:

20	Palatinit	49.8%
	Xylitol	50.0%
	Peppermint flavour	0.2%

Palatinit is melted at 170°C and cooled to 135°C, at which temperature the flavour is added as 25 well as powdered (50 µm) xylitol while efficiently mixing. The mixing time is 2 minutes with a planetary mixer. After the mixing, the mass is cooled to 20 to 30°C, whereafter it is formed with a candy roller or a toffee former. Crystallization to the final hardness takes 3 to 4 days.

Claims:

1. Hard candy containing xylitol, characterized in that it is substantially crystallized throughout and the sweetener thereof consists of 30 to 70% by weight of xylitol and 70 to 30% by weight of sorbitol, maltitol, isomalt, lactitol or a mixture thereof, and that it can contain, in addition to the sweetener, up to 3% by weight, preferably no more than 1% by weight, of water, and up to 3% by weight of conventional processing agents and additives such as vegetable fat, emulsifiers, colourings and aromatic substances, and intensive sweeteners.
2. Hard candy according to claim 1, characterized in that 50 to 60% by weight of the sweetener is xylitol.
3. Hard candy according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the sweetener consists of xylitol and sorbitol.
4. A process for manufacturing the hard candy according to claim 1, characterized in that about 35 to 80% by weight of the total amount of the sweetener is melted at a temperature of 120 to 175°C, whereafter it is cooled to a temperature of 95 to 135°C, at which temperature the remainder of the sweetener is added thereto while mixing as a crystalline or powdered solid, optional processing agents and additives are added to the mass when it is in a molten state, and the mass is formed into candies by forming techniques known per se or modifications thereof, whereby all raw materials are substantially dry.
5. A process according to claim 4, characterized in that the sweetener contains 40 to 65% by weight of xylitol and that about 60 to 80%

of the sweetener, the main part of which is xylitol, is melted at 120 to 160°C, the melt is cooled to 100 to 115°C, at which temperature the remainder of the sweetener is added thereto as a crystalline or 5 powdered solid, preferably in a particle size of less than 50 µm, the mixture is cooled while mixing to 60 to 80°C and mould in hard or starch moulds.

6. A process according to claim 5, characterized in that the sweetener consists of 10 xylitol and maltitol.

7. A process according to claim 5, characterized in that the sweetener consists of xylitol and sorbitol.

8. A process according to claim 4, characterized in that the sweetener comprises 15 40 to 65% of xylitol and 35 to 60% of sorbitol or lactitol, and that about 45 to 60% of the sweetener is melted at 120 to 130°C, the melt is cooled to 95 to 105°C, at which temperature the remainder of the 20 sweetener, about 40 to 55%, wherein the proportion of xylitol is 20 to 35% and the proportion of sorbitol or lactitol is 5 to 20%, is added thereto as a crystalline or powdered solid, the mixture is cooled in 1 to 3 minutes while mixing to 55 to 60°C and thereafter on a cold table quickly and simultaneously kneading to 20 to 30°C, and the mass is formed into candies by the candy roller technique or by rolling to a thin plate, of which suitable bits are formed, 25 for example by the chewing gum technique or the lozenge technique using a plastic mass.

9. A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the part of the sweetener to be added as a solid substance has been powdered to 30 a particle size of 40 to 60 µm.

10. A process according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the sweetener consists of xylitol and sorbitol.

11. A process according to claim 4, characterized in that the sweetener contains 30 to 65% of xylitol and 35 to 70% of maltitol or isomalt, which maltitol or isomalt is melted at 165 to 175°C, the melt is cooled to 120 to 135°C, at which temperature xylitol is added thereto as a solid, preferably as a solid powdered to a particle size of 30 to 150 µm, whereafter the mixture is cooled on a cold table while kneading to 25 to 35°C, and the mass is formed into candies by the candy roller technique, toffee manufacturing apparatus or by rolling to a thin plate, of which suitable bits are formed, for example by the chewing gum technique or the lozenge technique using a plastic mass.

12. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that xylitol is added as a solid powdered to an average particle size of 40 to 60 µm.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/FI 90/00271

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, Indicate all)⁶

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

IPC5: A 23 G 3/00

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched⁷

Classification System	Classification Symbols
IPC5	A 23 G

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in Fields Searched⁸

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹

Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
P,A	EP, A1, 0398279 (CULTOR OY) 22 November 1990, see the whole document --	1-12
P,X	EP, A2, 0370761 (OY RETTIG AB) 30 May 1990, see the whole document --	1-12
A	EP, A1, 0273000 (WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY) 29 June 1988, see the whole document --	1-12
A	US, A, 4292337 (GEERT ANDERSEN) 29 September 1981, see the whole document --	1-12
A,P	EP, A2, 0377278 (CULTOR LTD.) 11 July 1990, see the whole document -- -----	1-12

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IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

13th February 1991

1991 -02- 18

International Searching Authority

Signature of Authorized Officer

Kerstin Boije Jansson

SWEDISH PATENT OFFICE

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.PCT/FI 90/00271

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
The members are as contained in the Swedish Patent Office EDP file on **90-12-28**.
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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